(c) No, sector-wise targets for annual cloth production were fixed during the above period.

Handloom fairs/exhibitions

433. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many handloom fairs/exhibitions were held during 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

(b) the details of places, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the details of report submitted by officers deputed for inspection and to certify expenditure.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) The details of the number of Handloom exhibitions/fairs held during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-01 alongwith the details of places/States and the expenditure incurred thereon are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 194, Annexure No. 4]

(d) The final releases are made only after receipt of a report on the conduct of the fair/exhibition duly certified by the competent authority of the State Government/the Agency concerned, alongwith audited accounts thereon.

Modernisation of NTC Mills in Maharashtra

434. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on modernisation of NTC mills in Maharashtra State, till date;

(b) the strategy planned to make the sick units viable there; and

(c) the policy of Government to protect the interest of workers in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) An amount of Rs. 110.62 crores have been spent on modernization of NTC mills in Maharashtra State.

(b) These Mills are under the NTC subsidiaries namely NTC (MN) and NTC (SM) which are before BIFR. After a unit-by-unit study of viability done by Textile Research Associations, BIFR circulated Draft Rehabilitation Schemes for these companies involving revival of all revivable mills and closure of the non-reviavable ones. BIFR fixed hearing for finalisation of Rehabilitation Schemes on 26th and 28th February for NTC (SM) and NTC (MN) respectively.

(c) For protecting interests of workers, Government have agreed for giving an attractive VRS package to the affected persons.

Effect of slow down in world economy on textile industry

435. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world economy has slowed down since September 11, 2001 and subsequently its impact was largely felt on our Textile Industry including Mill Sector, Handloom Sector and Powerloom Sector; if so, details thereof with reference to each of these sectors;

(b) whether any remedial steps have been initiated and if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have called a high level meeting including representatives of Textile Sector and State Governments to discuss the crises in this vital sector affecting lakhs of workers and other dependent people throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) There are reports of slow down of the world economy since September 11, 2001. However, it is too premature to conclude that its impact is largely on our textile industry. A high level meeting including the representatives of Textile Sector was called to discuss the prevailing situation in the textile industry and exports.